

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 2-4 and 6-21 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claims 1 and 5. Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority. Applicants also thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings which was filed on May 4, 2004.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 6, 8 and 9 "as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim," parent claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled, and the subject matter of claim 1 has been incorporated into amended claim 3. Amended claim 3 now recites that the second, third, fourth and fifth lens groups each include "at least one lens component" (which encompasses one or more lens component), which replaces the previously-recited "a refracting curved surface" (as recited in original claim 1). Furthermore, dependent claims 6, 8 and 9 have been amended to depend on amended claim 3 and further limit the features of parent claim 3 by specifying that the "a total number of lens components in said [second, fourth, or fifth] lens group is one."

III. Allowable Subject Matter

In response to the Examiner's indication that claims 3-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of the base claim, claim 1, into claim 3. Furthermore, all remaining claims 2, 4 and 6-21 now depend on amended claim 3. Accordingly, claim 3 and its dependent claims 2, 4 and 6-21 are in allowable condition.

Respectfully submitted,

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